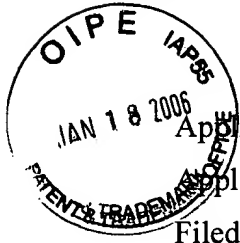


HARD1.015A

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Donald J. Merkley, et al.  
Appl. No. : 09/970,389  
Filed : 10/02/2001  
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR REDUCING IMPURITIES IN  
CELLULOSE FIBERS FOR  
MANUFACTURE OF FIBER  
REINFORCED CEMENT  
COMPOSITE MATERIALS  
Examiner : Mark Halpern  
Group Art Unit : 1731

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 13, 2006

(Date)

Linda Liu, Reg. No. 51,240

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 13, 2005  
FILED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAM (RCE)**

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action of September 13, 2005 ("Office Action").

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Summary of Interview** begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.